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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 10
Trade and development

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* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

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Overall orientation

10.1 The main objective of the programme, implemented by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), is to maximize the trade and development opportunities of developing countries and to assist them in their integration into the world economy in a manner that enhances the development opportunities offered by the globalization process, while helping to shape international economic relations in the twenty-first century.

10.2 At the tenth session of UNCTAD, held in Bangkok in February 2000, Governments recognized that ensuring that all countries enjoy the benefits of globalization requires meeting the complex policy challenges presented, in particular at the macroeconomic level, by the growing interdependence of the various spheres of economic activity, including, in particular, trade, finance and investment, and the downside risks that this interdependence sometimes carries. Governments reiterated that, as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, UNCTAD is pre-eminently placed to examine these issues and to build consensus on policies in a globalizing world from a development perspective. This perspective should keep in mind the "Evaluation of the developmental impact of globalization", as outlined in the Plan of Action adopted in Bangkok. In order to achieve these objectives, UNCTAD acts as a forum for intergovernmental discussions, supported by discussions with experts, aimed at consensus-building; undertakes research and analysis, inter alia, to provide substantive inputs for those discussions; and provides related technical assistance tailored to the needs of beneficiary countries, concentrating on capacity-building.

10.3 Through the implementation of this programme, UNCTAD is also expected to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the outcomes of recent global conferences, in particular to the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Doha Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization as well as other decisions. UNCTAD will also pay particular attention to cross-cutting issues such as the needs of the least developed countries, poverty reduction and greater gender participation in the economy through trade and investment opportunities and the potential of South-South cooperation. Furthermore, partnerships with civil society and the private sector will be pursued for the benefit of Member States from all geographical regions, taking into account their national policies and strategies, with an emphasis on the quality and long-term viability, rather than the quantity, of the partnerships.

10.4 ITC will complement the work of its parent bodies, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO), by focusing its technical cooperation activities on supporting the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, most particularly their business sectors, to build the capacities needed to realize their full potential for developing exports and improving import operations so that they can compete in the international marketplace. Capacity-building support is provided through information dissemination, training and advisory services.

Principal clients of such technical assistance are public and private sector institutions and institutional networks that extend specialized trade support services to the export community in partner countries. Its principal technical cooperation partners are national networks of trade support institutions concerned with the international competitiveness of the small-scale enterprise sector. Priority is given to Africa and the least developed countries.

10.5 UNCTAD will be responsible for subprogrammes 1 to 5, while ITC will be responsible for subprogramme 6.

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

A. Globalization, interdependence and development

Objective of the Organization: To promote economic policies and strategies at the national, regional and international levels that are supportive of sustained growth and poverty reduction in developing countries, based on faster capital accumulation and increased gains from globalization, against the background of increasing interdependence between the international trading and financial systems and national development strategies.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Better understanding of policy choices and their implications for faster and more stable growth and poverty reduction in developing countries as a result of policy advocacy	(a) (i) Number of endorsements of policy recommendations and acknowledgement of research findings by Member States (ii) Coverage by the media of research findings and policy recommendations
(b) Progress towards a solution to the debt problems of developing countries through better debt management and debt relief	(b) (i) Number of institutions using the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (ii) Increased number of countries having improved external debt positions or having gained international commitments to this end
(c) Improved empirical and statistical foundations and informational base for decision-making at the national and international levels on trade, financial and economic policies and development strategies	(c) Number of requests from outside users for statistical publications and information materials in both electronic and hardcopy format
(d) Improved policy and institutional environment, both domestic and international, for the development of the Palestinian economy	(d) Number of policy, legislative measures and international cooperation initiatives taken

Strategy

10.6 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies. The objective will be pursued through policy advocacy based on: (a) timely and forward-looking research and analysis of macroeconomic and development policies, taking into account the outcomes of relevant major international conferences; (b) the formulation of policy recommendations for appropriate development strategies at the national, regional and international levels; (c) furthering consensus building on macroeconomic and development policies that are suited to the specific conditions of developing countries; and (d) capacity-building in support of such policies, including measures related to external financing and debt. The widest possible dissemination of the subprogramme's reports and documents will be linked closely with the provision of advisory services, training and workshops at the national and international levels; technical cooperation, in particular in the area of debt management; statistical and information services as tools for policy makers and in support of UNCTAD's work programme; and special assistance to the Palestinian people.

B. Development of Africa

Objective of the Organization: To promote African economic development and fuller participation and successful integration of African countries into the world economy.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increase in the range of national and international policy choices to promote African development in the areas of expertise of UNCTAD	(a) Increased number of endorsements by African States of policy recommendations
(b) Increased utilization of services provided in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and various intergovernmental and inter-agency initiatives with regard to Africa	(b) Increase in number of requests for assistance in support of the New Partnership and other such initiatives

Strategy

10.7 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies. The subprogramme will undertake analytical research to identify issues that impact on Africa's economic development and will play an advocacy role in promoting consensus in the international development community on the policy measures that best address Africa's development problems. The research output will be linked closely to the provision of advisory services, training, workshops and lectures.

Subprogramme 2
Investment, enterprise and technology

Objective of the Organization: To assure developmental gains from increased international investment flows and technology transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition and from enhanced international competitiveness of domestic enterprises in these countries.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased ability at the national level to discuss international investment issues and their development dimension	(a) Percentage of policy makers and other stakeholders who indicate that they are better able to discuss and negotiate international investment-related issues
(b) Better understanding of policies that will attract and benefit from foreign direct investment and technology transfer and the development dimension of international agreements	(b) Increased number of policy recommendations put into practice by developing countries
(c) Improved opportunities for enterprises in developing countries to enhance their competitiveness through deepened linkages between domestic and foreign firms and better understanding of emerging issues in accounting and reporting standards, corporate responsibility, transparency and good corporate practices	(c) Increased number of actions and initiatives taken by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance enterprise competitiveness

Strategy

10.8 This subprogramme is implemented under the responsibility of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development. To achieve its objective, the subprogramme will aim to improve the understanding of issues and policy choices in international investment, enterprise development and technology transfer and will continue to strengthen its role as the major source of comprehensive information and analysis of international investment. It will focus on the development dimension of international investment and technology flows, the interface of global processes and national policy-making and the integration of investment, technology and enterprise-development policies. The subprogramme will also aim to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, at their request, in formulating and implementing integrated policies and participating in discussions and negotiations relating to international investment.

Subprogramme 3
International trade

Objective of the Organization: To assure developmental gains from international trade, the trading system and trade negotiations in goods and services and to enhance commodities sector's contribution to the development process for the effective and beneficial integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the global economy.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Better ability of developing countries to analyse, formulate and implement appropriate trade policies and strategies in international trade, the international trading system and trade negotiations	(a) (i) Number of actions taken by developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations and regional integration processes (ii) Increase in the registered and subscribing users of the Trade Analysis and Information Analysis System (TRAINS), the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) and the Agriculture Trade Policy Simulation Model (APTSM)
(b) Strengthened capacity of developing countries to integrate commodity production and trade into development	(b) Number of countries in which substantive progress is made in the contribution of the commodities sector to development
(c) Improved capability of developing countries to identify and address competition and consumer protection issues and to deal effectively with restrictive business practices	(c) Number of countries making progress in competition or consumer-protection legislation, specifically through the preparation, adoption or revision of legal instruments, or through measures aimed at enforcing their implementation
(d) Strengthened capacity of developing countries to reconcile trade and trade policy with sustainable development objectives, including in the context of the international trading system	(d) Number of actions taken by developing countries to reconcile trade policy with sustainable development objectives in international discussions and negotiations or through specific policy measures at the national, regional and international levels

Strategy

10.9 This subprogramme is implemented under the responsibility of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities. To achieve its objective, the subprogramme will aim to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities, thereby maximizing the gains from international trade in goods and services and from international commodity markets. It will monitor and analyse the evolution of the international trading system and commodity markets and help countries develop the capacity to participate effectively in trade negotiations and to formulate relevant policies and strategies, with particular attention paid to the concerns of the least developed countries and African countries. It will provide a

forum for policy discussion and consensus building on core and emerging issues of international trade, development benchmarks, commodities and new and dynamic sectors of international trade, such as trade in services. Special emphasis will be placed on the interface between the multilateral trading system and regional/bilateral trade agreements, coherence between global/regional processes and national policies and strategies, South-South cooperation and trade preferences. It will foster a new thrust to international cooperation and partnership in commodities development, diversification, commodity-related financing and risk management. It will also further its work on cross-cutting issues of: trade and poverty; trade and gender; trade, environment and development; competition policy and consumer protection; and trade and other globalization issues. Strengthened inter-agency collaboration will be sought.

Subprogramme 4
Services infrastructure for development, trade efficiency and human resources development

Objective of the Organization: To improve the competitiveness in international trade of developing countries and countries with economies in transition through efficient and secure trade supporting services, better and increased utilization of information technology and development of training capacities.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved developing countries' trade logistics by, inter alia, strengthening transport efficiency, trade facilitation, customs and legal framework	(a) Increased number of specific actions taken by developing countries to improve transport efficiency and trade facilitation
(b) Improved awareness and understanding by developing countries of the policy and strategy options of the economic applications of information and communication technologies	(b) Percentage of readers' feedback rating the *E-Commerce and Development Report* as "useful" or "very useful"
(c) Strengthened human resources development capacity in developing countries in the fields of trade, investment and trade-supporting services	(c) Percentage of trained trainers having successfully delivered training

Strategy

10.10 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency. To achieve the objective the subprogramme will aim to promote access to, and capacity to use, information and knowledge. In particular, the subprogramme will focus on: trade supporting services, such as transport efficiency, trade facilitation and customs and legal frameworks; economic applications of information and communication technologies; and development of the capacity of trade and training institutions. It will pursue the objective through (a) timely and forward-looking research and analysis; (b) the formulation of policy recommendations for appropriate development strategies at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) fostering dialogue for consensus building; (d) providing technical assistance upon request; and (e) building the capacity of trade, transport and training institutions. The subprogramme's reports and documents will be widely disseminated through the provision of advisory services, training and workshops at the national and international levels. Where appropriate, they will draw upon the knowledge gained through technical cooperation activities.

Subprogramme 5
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Objective of the Organization: To promote progressive and beneficial integration into the global economy of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, facilitating, in particular, the smooth graduation of the least developed countries.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased analytical understanding and consensus in the global economy of the development problems of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	(a) Increased number of agreed and recommended policy actions by least developed countries and their development partners
(b) Better integration of trade policies and priorities in the national development plans of least developed countries	(b) Number of countries having mainstreamed their trade policies and priorities into their national development plan
(c) Enhanced international cooperation for improving transit transport for the trade of landlocked developing countries	(c) Number of landlocked developing countries making progress in the improvement of their transit-transport agreements and other trade facilitation measures

Strategy

10.11 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Special Programme for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. To achieve the above objective, the subprogramme will focus its efforts on improving human and institutional capabilities in these countries through conducting research and policy analysis; making policy proposals based on such analysis; facilitating intergovernmental discussion on issues relating to the status of the least developed countries and their smooth graduation; implementing technical assistance based on specific needs of these countries; coordinating relevant UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in favour of these countries; and participating in the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. It will contribute to the three global programmes of action for these countries, namely: the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010; the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit

Developing Countries; and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Objective of the Organization: To enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to realize their full potential for developing exports and improving import operations.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Establishment of national core expertise in multilateral trading system issues involving a good understanding of products and market reality and potential	(a) (i) Increase in the number of country networks established and supported under the World Tr@de Net and related ITC programmes (ii) Increase in the level of activities of individual advocacy networks
(b) Trade development strategies that take into account supply capacities and international demand and commercial practices	(b) (i) Increase in the number of trade development strategies developed through ITC collaboration (national or sectoral) under implementation (ii) Increase in the number of countries assisted that incorporate an "e" dimension into export strategies
(c) A reinforcement of trade support institutions in providing efficient services to the business community	(c) (i) Increase in the number of trade support institutions partnering with ITC (ii) Increased number of institutions applying ITC support tools
(d) Improved trade performance in selected product and services sectors	(d) (i) Increase in the number of enterprises participating in ITC buyers-sellers meetings and matchmaking activities (ii) Increase in the number of participants in the ServicesExportNetwork (iii) Increase in the number of countries with partners using ITC strategic market analysis tools
(e) Increased entrepreneurship and competitiveness at the enterprise level	(e) Increase in the number of enterprise associations applying ITC-developed support tools

Strategy

10.12 ITC bears substantive responsibility for the implementation of this subprogramme. The strategy will focus on developing national capacities to identify new trading opportunities for goods and services and address the business implications of the multilateral trading system by linking national capacities to specific products and markets. It will involve interventions in the following functional areas: (a) institutional development for trade promotion and specialized support services; (b) export training capacity development; (c) capacity-building in international purchasing and supply management; (d) strategic and operational market research; (e) sector-specific product and market development; (f) trade information management; (g) promoting the use of information and communication technologies for improving trade competitiveness; and (h) technical cooperation coordination, including needs assessment and programme/project design.

10.13 In pursuit of its objective, ITC will: (a) establish and nurture national networks of trade experts to raise awareness and develop capabilities to understand and respond to changes in the multilateral trading system; (b) offer a platform for discussion and facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices in finding business solutions to trade-related problems; (c) promote business advocacy and provide publications, training materials, courses and direct assistance related to the business implications of WTO agreements; (d) develop and apply tools for national export potential surveys and strategic market research; (e) implement a "product-network" strategy involving the participative development of generic technical assistance products and their customization and dissemination through a network of partner institutions; (f) combine market intelligence with training, advisory services and business contacts for the export promotion of specific products and services, with particular emphasis on South-South trade and poverty reduction; and (g) help national institutions to provide counselling services to enterprises in trade information, export planning, identification of customers, management of the supply chain, product development and adaptation, marketing, pricing, contracting and distribution.

10.14 ITC carries out its technical cooperation activities in coordination with its parent bodies, UNCTAD and WTO. In addition, ITC cooperates with a network of other multilateral agencies, ranging from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the regional economic commissions and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to l'Agence intergouvernementale de la francophonie and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and, for the first time in 2004, the European Commission. Direct collaboration with bilateral technical cooperation agencies, primarily from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, in the design and implementation of field-level activities is also increasing. Partnership with the private sector is a priority for ITC, which works closely with private sector associations such as the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

Legislative mandates

The mandates below apply to subprogrammes 1 to 5:

TD/386 Plan of Action, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, on 19 February 2000

TD/387 Bangkok Declaration: Global Dialogue and Dynamic Engagement, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, on 19 February 2000

Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E)

Doha Ministerial Declaration of the World Trade Organization (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1)

General Assembly resolutions

55/2 United Nations Millennium Declaration

55/182 International trade and development

55/279 Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

56/210 International Conference on Financing for Development

57/240 Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

57/253 World Summit on Sustainable Development

57/300 Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change

58/172 The right to development

58/197 International trade and development

58/200 Science and technology for development

58/201 Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

58/202 International financial system and development

58/203 External debt crisis and development

58/204 Commodities

58/213 Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

58/220 Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

58/222 Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

58/225 Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

58/228 Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

58/230 Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

58/233 New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1819 (LV) United Nations export promotion programmes